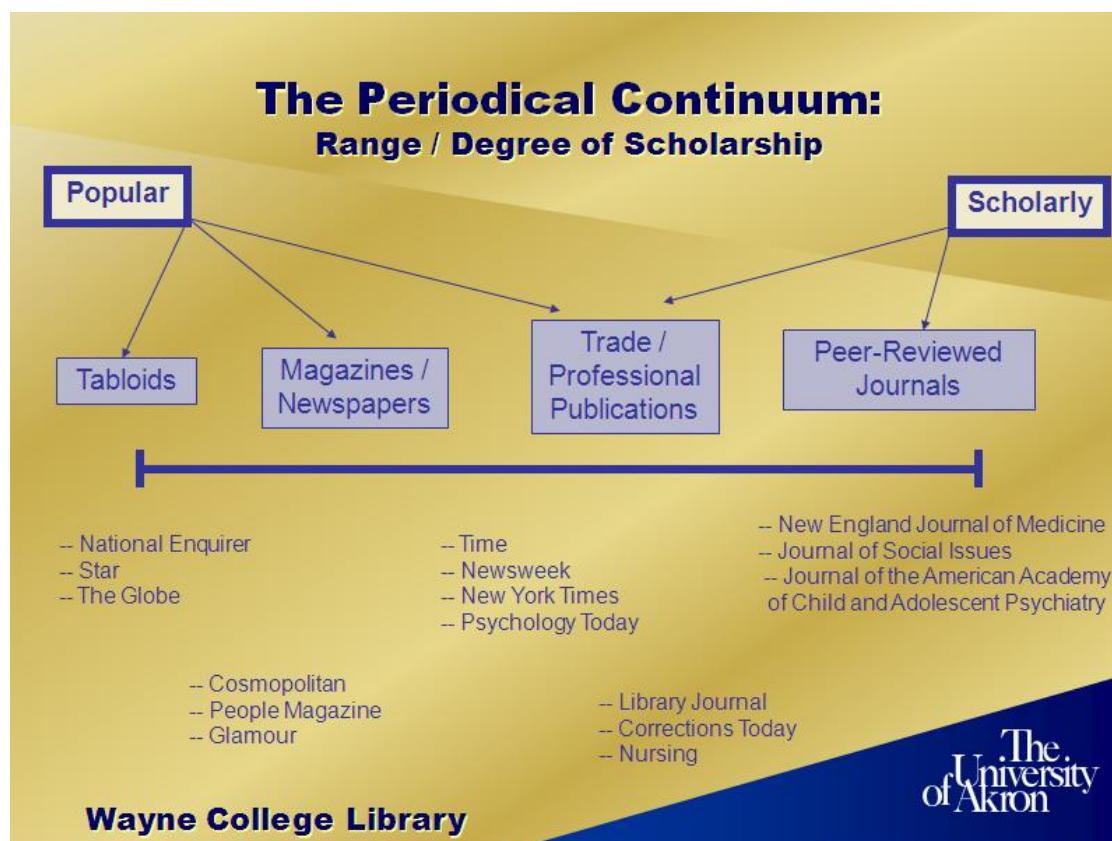


Distinguishing Scholarly from Non-Scholarly Publications

Popular Magazines	Professional / Trade Publications	Scholarly Journals
These are the magazines you find at the supermarket. You read them primarily for entertainment, news updates, or to appeal to your special interests. They are the type of periodicals most often found in public libraries.	These are the magazines and newsletters put out by professional organizations or to appeal to persons in specific occupations. They are often found in professional offices, larger public libraries, and academic libraries.	These journals are primarily put out by professional organizations with an emphasis to advance the state of knowledge in a particular field. They are primarily found in university and research libraries.
These magazines typically are colorful, have shorter articles (usually with no references), and receive substantial revenue from advertising.	Articles in these periodicals are written by professionals in the field to address news, practical applications, and specific information needs.	Articles in these journals are written by professionals in the field, cover theory and research, and include references.
Some examples include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cosmopolitan • Psychology Today • Sports Illustrated • Time 	Some examples include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advertising Age • Corrections Today • Instructor • NASW News 	Some examples include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • American Journal of Psychiatry • Nursing • Social Work



Determining if an article is scholarly:

- **Length:** The article is usually several pages long, and can, at times, be as long as 20 to 30 pages.
- **Author:** There is always an author or group of authors listed. The author(s) usually have credentials or affiliations listed.
- **Audience:** The intended audience is other experts, researchers, and students in the field.
- **Refereed:** Articles may be “refereed,” or reviewed by peers prior to being accepted for publication.
- **Illustrations:** The article may include maps, tables, and graphs that support the text. Colorful photographs are rarely used.
- **References:** The article always includes citations to research discussed in the article in the form of footnotes, endnotes, or bibliographies.
- **Language:** Look for vocabulary that would be used in the author’s field or discipline.
- **Format:** The article follows a standardized format (APA, MLA, etc.).
- **Title:** Keep in mind that not all scholarly journals have “Journal” in the title (although many do). Also, not every source that has “Journal” in the title is actually scholarly. (Example: Ladies Home Journal)

Identifying potential bias in popular periodicals:

Questions to ask about the source (magazine, journal, or newspaper):

- What is the **purpose** of the source? (Does it inform, persuade, present opinions, report research, or sell a product?)
- Who is the **publisher** of the source? (Is it an organization, association, or company?)
- Who is the intended **audience** of the source? (Is it for the general population or for a select group?)
- **Where** is it published? (Is it a local, regional, national, or international source?)

Questions to ask about a specific article:

- Who is the **author**? (Is an author identified? Are any credentials listed? Is the author qualified to speak on this topic? What other topics has the author written about? Does the author belong to a partisan organization that may influence point of view?)
- What is the **purpose** of the article? (Is it a review, commentary, editorial, informative article, research article, etc.?)
- What kind of **supporting material** is offered? (Does the author quote research studies, statistics, or use personal anecdotes or experiences? Is logic applied when drawing conclusions? Are deceptive arguments used?)

What kind of **language** is used in the article? (Are inflammatory, loaded, or emotionally-charged words used?)

Need Help?

- Stop by the library or call the Wayne College Library Information Desk at (330) 684-8789
- Text your brief questions to (330) 828-6773
- Send an email message to waynelibrary@uakron.edu
- Chat with us live at <https://www.wayne.uakron.edu/library/chat.dot>